



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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Navy Pier

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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES NEXT PHASE
OF NAVY PIER'S *CENTENNIAL VISION* REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Plan Designed to Reinvent Iconic Lakefront Destination into Year-Round Attraction

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Navy Pier today announced that City Council has approved the Pier's next phase of its *Centennial Vision* redevelopment plan. The plan reimagines and reinvents Navy Pier as a bolder, greener, more contemporary public space that offers expanded arts and cultural programming, and showcases a uniquely Chicago experience for the nine million guests who visit it annually.

"Navy Pier is a cultural and economic hub for Chicago and this plan is transforming it into a one-of-a-kind destination that will draw even more visitors from throughout the world," Mayor Emanuel said. "Navy Pier has served Chicago for 100 years, and this revitalization will prepare it for the next 100 and is a key part of our efforts to bring 55 million visitors to Chicago annually by 2020, generating jobs and economic opportunity throughout Chicago's neighborhoods."

This summer, Navy Pier completed the first phase of its redevelopment. It unveiled the new *Centennial Wheel*, new Polk Bros Park Fountain and Plaza as a green entryway to the Pier, a renovated South Dock and new, authentic Chicago Food Experience.

The City Council vote came just days after the city's Zoning Committee gave its approval for the next phase of projects outlined in the *Centennial Vision*. Navy Pier is currently seeking partnerships in order to secure private development funding or philanthropic contributions for this exciting next phase of the plan. The projects include:

- Development of a seven-story, 240-room hotel, adjacent to the south side of the Festival Hall exhibition space, and will be funded through private development funding.
- Marquee additions to the East End Plaza, including a proposed arched, elevated overlook walkway and reflective water feature, which will be funded through philanthropic contributions.
- A Welcome Pavilion in Polk Bros Park, with 4,000 square feet for guest services and programmatic space, which will be funded through philanthropic contributions.

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- Also in Polk Bros Park, a seasonal ice rink within the footprint of the park's new fountain and plaza, financed through Navy Pier operations.
- Short-term, north-side boat docking facility for use by recreational boaters seasonally, which will be funded through private development funding.

"On behalf of everyone at Navy Pier, I would like to thank Mayor Emanuel, the Mayor's staff, 42nd Ward Alderman Brendan Reilly, and the entire Chicago City Council for their support of our *Centennial Vision*. We are proud of the changes made to date and look forward to further advancing our vision as we turn our attention to the next phase of a dramatic transformation of 'the People's Pier,'" Marilynn Gardner, President and CEO of Navy Pier said. "We believe the new physical and programmatic changes will lay the foundation for millions of memories to be made as this venue evolves to meet the needs of our guests during its second century."

In addition to the physical redevelopment, Navy Pier is near completion on an Arts and Discovery programmatic strategic plan. The plan will expand and enhance accessible arts and cultural programming, which to date has involved hundreds of community and cultural leaders in its development. The plan envisions new and eclectic arts, cultural, community, special events and entertainment programming. Navy Pier's development of new cultural and community programming is supported by the Polk Bros. Foundation. The planning effort has been led by Dickerson Global Advisors.

For more details on the Centennial Vision redevelopment plans for Navy Pier, please visit www.navypier.com or the Navy Pier Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages. **#100YearsOfPier**

About Navy Pier

Located on Lake Michigan, Navy Pier is the top-attended leisure destination in the Midwest, stretching more than six city blocks and welcoming more than 8 million guests annually. Originally opened in 1916 as a shipping and recreation facility, this Chicago landmark showcases more than 50 acres of parks, restaurants, attractions, retail shops, sightseeing and dining cruise boats, exposition facilities and more. In 2016, Navy Pier celebrates its 100th anniversary with a series of special events and programming, the grand opening of its new Centennial Wheel and ongoing pier-wide redevelopment efforts as part of the Centennial Vision. Navy Pier, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, maintains and oversees historic Navy Pier and its redevelopment into a bolder, greener and more contemporary urban space. For more information, visit our website at www.navypier.com.

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